

RAF K

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MEREBANK 4052

VALERIE CARELSE  
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT  
3rd FLOOR W/S 3/79  
90 PLEIN STREET  
CAPE TOWN 8001

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN RE: RAF DIRECT CLAIM  
RAF 89/1833.845/99/0

DEAR SIR, MADAM

I AM A DIRECT CLAIMANT HAVING BEEN INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT ON 5/1/2008. I WAS TREATED IN A PUBLIC HOSPITAL BEING A PENSIONER I TOOK THE DIRECT ROUTE TO AVOID THE HIGH COST OF LEGAL SERVICES.

I WAS LATER HANDED A RAFA FORM TO COMPLETE WITH A LIST OF RAF PANEL DOCTORS. THESE DOCTORS ARE MOSTLY, IN PRIVATE HOSPITALS AND PRIVATE PRACTICE, REGISTERED WITH AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (AMA). WHY ARE THERE NO DOCTORS FROM THE PUBLIC SECTOR ON THIS PANEL (SAHPC)

ON CONTACTING SOME OF THESE DOCTORS I WAS TOLD THAT IT WOULD COST BETWEEN R3000 - R7000 JUST TO FILL THIS FORM. BEING A PENSIONER THIS COST IS UNAFFORDABLE AND IMPACTS UNFAIRLY ON PENSIONERS AND UNEMPLOYED PERSONS DEALING WITH THE FUND DIRECTLY. HAVING BEEN GIVEN TILL 2013 TO FILL THIS FORM I HAVE YET TO COMPLY.

SOME MIGHT SAY THAT THIS IS A IMPEDIMENT THAT PREVENTS A SECTION OF THE POPULATION FROM ACCESSING THE BENEFITS OF THE FUND AND SERVICES OF THE STATE. FURTHERMORES THE MINISTER OF HEALTH RIGHTLY SEEKS TO REDUCE THE COST OF HEALTHCARE AND I FEEL

P 2 THAT

THAT THE PROPOSED ROAD ACCIDENT BENEFIT SCHEME (RABS) IN RELATION TO PAYMENT TO SERVICES (MEDICAL) PROVIDERS COULD BE OPEN TO ABUSE (SIMILAR TO LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS)

I MUST BE BORN IN MIND THAT PRIVATE HOSPITALS ARE RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT PATIENTS WITHOUT MEDICAL AID ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE RAF TAKES TOO LONG TO FINALISE CLAIMS. PATIENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PAY UP FRONT AND THEN CLAIM FROM THE FUND.

### GENERAL DAMAGES IN RELATION TO RAFA - LOSS OF FETUS

DEATH BENEFITS ARE PAYABLE TO DEPENDANTS OF DECEASED PERSONS. IN THE CASE OF A LOSS OF FETUS, THE FETUS IS DEPENDANT ON THE MOTHER. THE DEPENDANT IS LOST AND THE MOTHER IS COMPENSATED. THE RAFA FORM REQUIRES TO SHOW AT LEAST 30% IMPAIRMENT.

MOST WOMEN RECOVER SUFFICIENTLY WITHIN A FEW YEARS SHOWING NO PERMANENT IMPAIRMENT AND ARE ABLE TO BEAR CHILDREN. YET THEY RECEIVE COMPENSATION. THIS CAN ONLY BE FOR PAIN AND SUFFERING - EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA. OTHER CATEGORIES OF VICTIMS ARE NOT AFFORDED THIS BENEFIT. THIS IN MY HUMBLE OPINION AMOUNTS TO GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND IMPACTS ADVERSELY ON OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.

I HOPE THE HONOURABLE MINISTER (INDEED I PRAY) THAT WILL LOOK INTO THESE ANOMALIES AND GENERATE A FAVOURABLE SOLUTION.

THANKING YOU,

YOURS FAITHFULLY,

M. GOVINDAN

